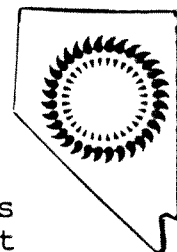


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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APRIL 1990 Documents Section
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SYNOPSIS

April 1990 was unusually warm over the entire Silver State and much wetter than normal in the West Central portion of Nevada, where 4 to 5 times the usual April precipitation occurred. In fact, this April will go into the record books, along with its three immediate predecessors. The 4th months of 1987 and 1989 were unusually warm, and April 1988 was extremely wet over most of the State.

Although wet conditions improved water availability for several watersheds, including the Humboldt River, drier than normal weather decreased the water outlook for the East Slope Sierra Nevada streams, as the 4th consecutive drought year in this area portends at least summer and fall water shortages. The same is true in Extreme Southern Nevada.

TEMPERATURES

If not for the very warm April 1987, this April would have been the warmest on record at many locations, with April one year ago not far behind. It was still the warmest at Denio, with a +9 degree departure in average temperature in a record that began in 1952. Rye Patch Dam with an almost 7 degree departure, also logged the warmest April in a record that began in 1935. It was the 2nd warmest April at Minden (RB 1906), Yerington (RB 1908), Lovelock (RB 1895), and Fallon (RB 1889), and the 4th warmest at Reno (RB 1888), where it missed by only 1/2 degree of being the warmest. Las Vegas recorded the 5th warmest since modern day records began at the Airport in 1937. Such unusually early warm temperatures hastened the melt of the meager Statewide snowpack, leaving little for late Spring and early Summer runoff.

The warm temperatures were more a result of warm nights than hot days, so that extreme maxima only neared record levels, with mid 80's common over the northern 2/3 of the State and mid 90's in the South. Laughlin recorded 101 on the 27th and 28th for the State high, with 98's at Amargosa Farms and Boulder Beach not far behind. The 106 recorded at both Laughlin and Cottonwood Cove in April 1989 is the State record. On the down side Pine Valley Bailey logged -3 degrees on the 29th for this month's Nevada "ice box award." Ruth, at -12 in 1963, holds the April cold record.

This warm month caused much less need for heat, but more for air conditioning. With the last six Aprils warmer than normal, some Nevadans may not remember just how cold this Spring month can be (e.g. 1967 or 1975).

PRECIPITATION

This was a very wet month in West Central Nevada, where Lovelock (record began 1895) with 2.90" and Fallon (RB 1889) with 2.30", had the wettest April of record. At the nearby Fallon Naval Air Station 2.90" was recorded! The previous records were 2.41" at Lovelock in 1988, and 2.27" in Fallon the same year. In addition, these two communities plus Rye Patch Dam had an unusual "double record," as it was also the 2nd warmest April of record at Lovelock and Fallon, and the wettest at Rye Patch. Rye Patch Dam, with 3.37", or almost 1/2 the average annual total, was the wettest location in Nevada this month. This was not only the wettest April at Rye Patch, but the wettest for any month since records began in 1935!

In general, from Paradise Valley and Arthur in the north to Tonopah in the central area and Virginia City in the West, two or more times the normal April precipitation fell. Only the extreme west and the extreme south had less than 75% of normal, with less than 25% in much of the South.

Other "wettest Aprils" were logged at locations with shorter records, such as Middlegate Lowery with 3.16", Unionville (2.96"), and Gabbs (2.71"). At both Middlegate and Gabbs this represents more than half the annual average!

The driest area during April was in the Extreme South where Boulder Beach and Pahrump recorded only traces of rain, and Mountain Springs Summit .03".

SUNSHINE, WIND AND EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were near normal Statewide, except in the North where there was more sun than usual. They ranged from a high of 83% of the possible hours at Las Vegas (normal = 87%) to a low of 69% at Ely (normal = 68%). Winnemucca logged 82% or 20% above normal.

Wind speed averages were near normal this month. Peak gusts did reach a little over 70 mph on top of Slide (9700') and Peavine Mountain (8500') near Reno at month's end, with gusts over 50 mph in Reno's suburbs and at some locations at the Nevada Test Site.

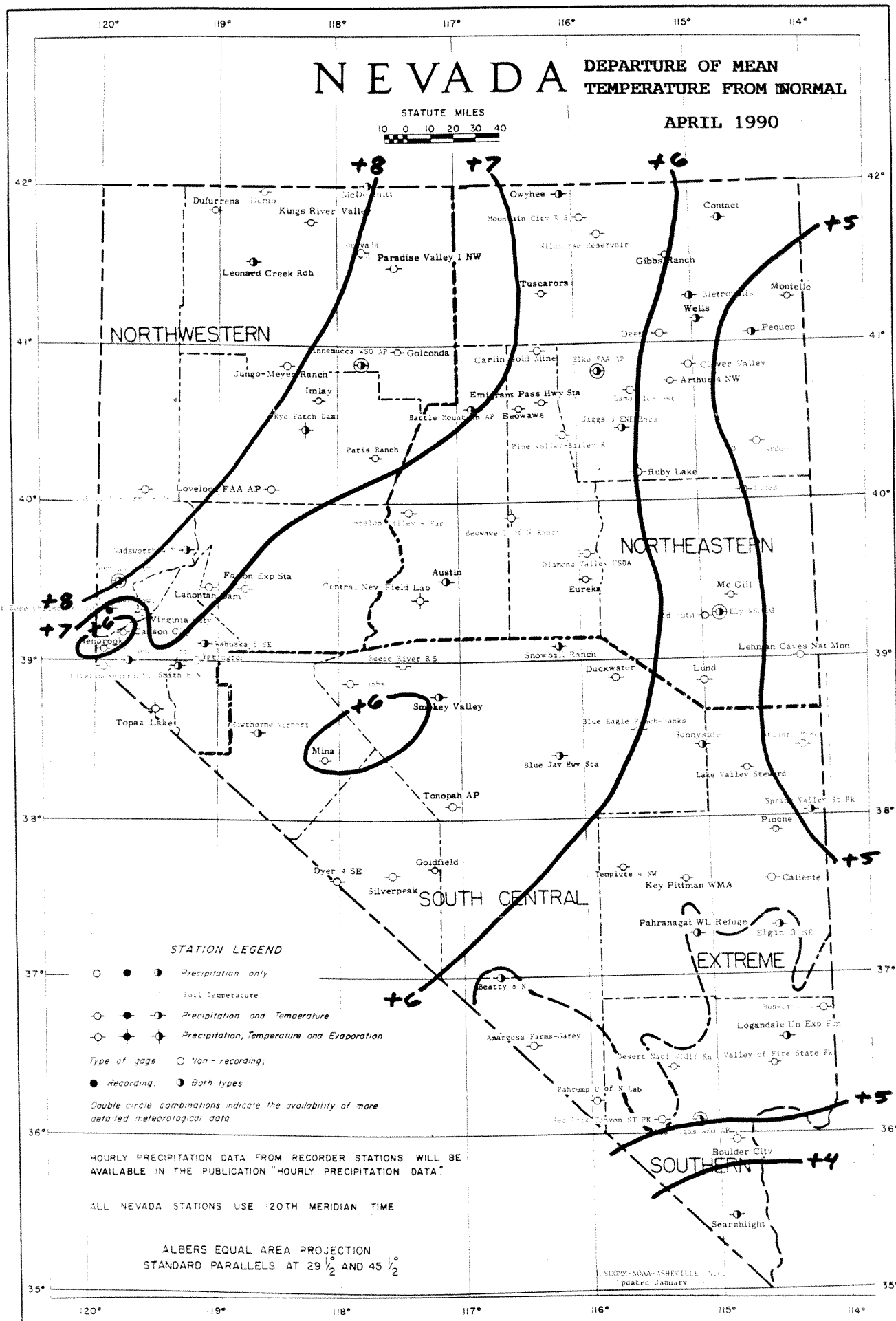
Evaporation was above normal only in the South, where Boulder City had 9.85" of pan evaporation, Pahrump logged 9.41", and Logandale 9.22". Evaporation was well below normal in the north 1/2 of the State, as an unusual amount of cloud cover and precipitation prevailed. For example, Fallon had only about half the normal amount with 3.83". Ruby Lake (4.37"), and Reno (5.00"), were also below normal.

John W. James
State Climatologist

NOTE: With persistent drought in most of Nevada, it seems appropriate to reflect on times when precipitation was more abundant.

NEVADA'S WETTEST

Greatest 24 Min. Precipitation	1.87"	Las Vegas	July 28, 1984
Greatest 1 Hour Precipitation	3.66"	Elko	August 27, 1970
Greatest 1 Month Precipitation	36.87"	Tahoe Meadows	February, 1986
Greatest Seasonal Precipitation	96.91"	Tahoe Meadows	1982-83



NEVADA

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

APRIL 1990

STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40

